

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, NO, RH, NI, SF
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER AT APARTHEID CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: PM ODVAR NORDLI AND NIGERIA'S CHIEF OF STATE OBASANJO MET FOR 90 MINUTES IN LAGOS AUGUST 24, AND DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT FOR A UN FORCE FOR RHODESIA, IF SUCH A FORCE IS CREATED, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN AFTENPOSTEN. NORDLI TOLD NEWSMEN IN LAGOS THAT OBASANJO'S PROPOSAL WAS QUOTE HALFWAY BETWEEN AN INVITATION AND A QUESTION UNQUOTE. NORDLI WAS A FEATURED SPEAKER AT THE OPENING OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID. END SUMMARY.

2. PM ODVAR NORDLI AND NIGERIA'S CHIEF OF STATE OBASANJO MET FOR 90 MINUTES IN LAGOS AUGUST 24, AND DISCUSSED
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THE POSSIBILITY OF A NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT IN A UN FORCE FOR RHODESIA, IF SUCH A FORCE IS CREATED, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN AFTENPOSTEN. NORDLI TOLD NEWSMEN IN LAGOS THAT OBASANJO'S PROPOSAL WAS QUOTE HALFWAY BETWEEN AN INVITATION AND A QUESTION UNQUOTE. NORDLI WAS A SPEAKER AT THE OPENING OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID IN LAGOS AUGUST 23, AND WAS THE ONLY WESTERN HEAD OF

GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING.

3. THE AFTENPOSTEN REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT OBSERVERS AT THE CONFERENCE IN LAGOS REPORTED THAT THE U.S. AND BRITAIN WERE CONSIDERING THE USE OF A UN FORCE IN RHODESIA, AND THAT OBASANJO'S APPROACH TO NORDLI ON THE SUBJECT WAS INTERPRITED AT THE CONFERENCE AS AN INDICATION THAT SOME AFRICAN NATIONS ARE STILL HIGHLY HOPEFUL OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIA PROBLEM.

4. NORDLI'S APPEARANCE AT THE CONFERENCE WAS LARGELY SYMBOLIC, SERVING TO POINT UP NORWAY'S CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT GETTING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. NORDLI'S SPEECH HELD OUT NO NEW NORWEGIAN INITIATIVES, BUT AGAIN URGED ACTION BY WESTERN DEMOCRACIES TO BEING MAXIMUM ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, BOTH DIRECTLY AND IN THE UN CONTEXT. ON THE LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, NORDLI REPEATED NORWAY'S WARNING THAT THE LACK OF TIMELY ACTION BY THE WEST WOULD ALLOW THE INITIATIVE TO GO OVER TO THE GUERILLA MOVEMENTS WHO WOULD COME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF COMMUNIST POWERS.

5. NORDLI ALSO MET WITH ROBERT MUGABE OF RHODESIA'S PATRIOTIC FRONT, WHO WILL COME TO NORWAY IN THE FALL AS A GUEST OF THE GON.

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6. COMMENT: NORDLI'S APPEARANCE AT LAGOS REINFORCES NORWEGIAN POLICY OF KEEPING NORWAY'S LINES OPEN TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE NIGERIAN INTEREST IN BROACHING THE IDEA OF A NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT IN A UN FORCE FOR RHODESIA SHOWS THAT SOME KEY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE A HIGH MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE IN NORWAY'S SUPPORT OF THEIR CAUSE, AND PERCEIVE A USEFUL ROLE THAT NORWAY CAN PLAY IN WORKING FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

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Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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